



Water Quality NewsFlash

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Riverside County SW Permit – Permit renewal underway – The San Diego Board is in the process of renewing the Municipal Storm Water Permit for the portion of Riverside Co. within the SD Region. One of the requirements is that each permittee describe interagency agreements, or other efforts, with non-permittees such as Caltrans to control the contribution of pollutants from one portion of the shared MS4 to another portion of the MS4. The permit also discusses shared treatment BMPs: http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb9/programs/rsd_stormwater.html

Tahoe Roadway Runoff – New controls reviewed – The SWRCB's recent Nonpoint Source Conference included presentations on runoff control programs throughout the state. A representative from the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency gave an interesting presentation on *Reducing Sediment from Roads through Interagency Partnerships*. The presentation reviewed various controls being investigated including Caltrans Double Barreled Sand Traps. The Basin's *Environmental Improvement Program* requires \$908 million between 1997 and 2007 and \$1.4 billion over 20 years. <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/nps/docs/conference2003/16mattgraham.PDF>

Salmon – Various protective efforts underway – The California Fish and Game Commission has accepted the recovery strategy prepared by the Department of Fish and Game and formally added Coho Salmon to the state list of threatened and endangered species. The strategy generally relies on an incentive approach rather than enforcement actions but does call for increased enforcement by the Board of Forestry. Sediment control is important as well as maintaining large trees near streams to provide shade. Details: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/naafb/coho.html> .

In related news, a federal judge has placed restrictions on pesticides that may affect salmon. Thirty-eight pesticides cannot be used near salmon streams – the buffer is 100 yards for aerial applications and 20 yards for ground applications, with some exceptions. The requirements apply to streams that support threatened and endangered salmon throughout Washington, Oregon, and California. In addition, vendors must provide point-of-sale warnings for seven specific pesticides that may harm salmon. These are interim controls until EPA comes into compliance with the Endangered Species Act. EPA will consult with NOAA Fisheries to establish permanent restrictions. http://www.watoxics.org/pages/root.aspx?xsl=release&source=/press/pr_2004_01_22

A recent study showed that a stretch of the San Joaquin River with episodes of low oxygen levels effectively blocks the migration of fall-run Chinook salmon. The low oxygen results from excessive algae growth triggered by elevated levels of nitrates which are nutrients. The nitrates come from either human or animal wastes. <http://water.usgs.gov/pubs/wri/wri034127/>

WQ NewsFlash is a weekly update of storm water and related news for the Department. *Verify information before taking action on these bulletins.* Contact Betty Sanchez, Betty_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov (916) 653-2115, or Fred Krieger, (510) 843-7889, fkrieger@msn.com with questions or to be added or deleted from e-mail list. Posted online at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/index.htm> Click: *Storm Water Bulletins*